

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-13 and 16-17 are pending. Reconsideration is requested.

Applicants thank Examiners Brooks and Richter for their courtesy and consideration in the telephonic Examiner Interview held on November 28, 2007 with the undersigned. The issues discussed and agreements reached are reflected in the remarks below.

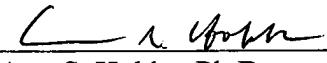
Claims 1, 5-13 and 16-17 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barsig (US Pub No. 2003/00992706) in view of Joensuu (US Pub No. 2006/0264443). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

The 102(e) date of Joensuu is 1/27/03. Applicant's priority date is 8/9/02. In accordance with the issues discussed during the above-referenced telephonic Examiner Interview, filed herewith is a certified English translation of the priority document. The translation establishes that Applicants are entitled to a priority date for the claimed subject matter that is earlier than the Joensuu publication. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC § 103 rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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